For Immediate Release   May 12, 2005

Contact: Jenny Hunter
Special Assistant for Communications
Virginia Information Technologies Agency
804-343-9012
jenny.hunter@vita.virginia.gov

CIO of Virginia Honored with Leadership Award by Technology Council

RICHMOND, VA, May 12, 2005 -- In recognition of his leadership role in the transformation of the state's information technology, Lemuel C. Stewart Jr., chief information officer (CIO) of the Commonwealth of Virginia, has been honored with the IBM Leadership Award by the Greater Richmond Technology Council (GRTC). The prestigious award was presented to Stewart by the GRTC at its 10th Annual Technology Stars Awards Gala in Richmond on Wednesday, May 11, 2005.

Stewart, who was named Virginia's Chief Information Officer in 2004, is the leader of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) and serves as the Senior Executive for all aspects of information technology for the Commonwealth of Virginia. VITA was created cooperatively by the 2003 General Assembly and Governor Mark Warner. Beginning in July 2003, VITA became the single, enterprise technology "utility" for the Commonwealth, providing information technology (IT) support and services to Executive branch agencies.

"This prestigious award actually honors the 1,200 employees of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, the Secretary of Technology, Governor Mark R Warner and the General Assembly," said Stewart. "We have all been partners in effecting unprecedented change in government delivery of information technology. Virginia has paved a road that other states are now following, and while we still have much work to do, the ultimate winners are the citizens and taxpayers."

Since assuming the role of CIO of the Commonwealth in 2004, Stewart has overseen VITA's implementation of improved governance and oversight of IT investments, the successful transition of staff and resources from 90 state agencies, significant cost savings and cost avoidances, promotion of enterprise thinking and collaboration, and provision of value-added benefits to citizens, customers, and localities. In late 2004, VITA launched a comprehensive IT Transformation initiative to streamline processes, standardize and leverage the IT infrastructure, and revolutionize service delivery to citizens.

Virginia was ranked 3rd in the nation by the Center for Digital Government in both the 2004 Digital States Survey and the 2004 Best of the Web contest. In 2005, Virginia was recognized by the Government Performance Project as the best managed state, and was one of five states to receive an A- in the information category. Virginia won two National Association of State CIOs (NASCIO) 2004 Recognition Awards for VITA's Virginia Geographic Information Network geographic information systems (GIS) program and VITA's Public Safety Communications Division e-911 services. Virginia's efforts to consolidate and transform technology in Virginia have been featured in *Governing*, *Government Technology*, *InformationWeek, Government Computer News*, numerous trade journals, state and local media.

GRTC's annual Leadership Award is given to the individual whose leadership has served as a key catalyst for positive technology-related activity in the Greater Richmond

community. Stewart was chosen as the winner in the leadership category from among five finalists.

For more information about VITA: www.vita.virginia.gov
For more information about GRTC and its awards program: www.richtech.com

###